

DRAFT - 7 April 1962

Agreement Between Secretary of Defense and the Director of Central Intelligence on Functions and Responsibilities of the National Reconnaissance Office (TS)

Reference:

- (a) ~~Deputy-Secretary of Defense TOP SECRET~~ memorandum,
subject, ~~Space-Vehicle-Electronics-Intelligence-Program,~~
dated ~~October-20, -1961-with attachment.~~

Definitions:

NRO - National Reconnaissance Office.

NRP - National Reconnaissance Program, to consist of
all overt and covert satellite and overflight projects
for intelligence, geodesy and mapping photography
and electronic signal collection

~~DOD/AR - Assistant for Reconnaissance to the Secretary of -~~
~~Defense~~

DNRO - Director, National Reconnaissance Office

~~CIA - The Central Intelligence Agency~~

~~STG - Satellite Test Center - Air Force operations center~~
~~at Sunnyvale, California, for the on-orbit control~~
~~of satellites.~~

~~AOG - Aircraft Operations Center - Air Force operations~~
~~office within the Pentagon for control of special~~
~~aircraft operations.~~

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Policy:

The following plan outlines basic policy for the establishment of functions and responsibilities within the National Reconnaissance Office to insure that the particular talents, experience and capabilities within the Department of Defense and the Central Intelligence Agency are fully and most effectively utilized in the establishment, management and conduct of the National Reconnaissance Program. The DNRO will be designated by the Secretary of Defense and the Director of Central Intelligence.

1. Management

a. The technical management (DOD) underscoring-not new) responsibility for all the NRP is assigned to the DNRO. Under this over-all responsibility for NRP, CIA is designated as Executive Agent for those covert projects already under its management and such additional covert projects as are assigned to it by the Secretary of Defense and the Director of Central Intelligence.

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(1) To provide for full use of available capabilities and resources, and to provide for interface with data exploitation equipment development by agencies outside the NRO, representatives of Army, Navy and Air Force, and CIA, will be assigned, on a full-time basis, to appropriate positions within the NRO under the DNRO. They will be technically qualified in electronic signal collection work and in mapping and geodesy, respectively, and have NRO project responsibilities in these areas.

(2) A firm liaison channel between the NRO and NSA will be established as an adjunct to the technical management structure of signal collection projects, and the conduct of such projects carried out in accordance with the NSA responsibilities described in reference (a).



b. Financial Management:

(1) With respect to funds, ~~(DOD undersecoring act new)~~

The DNRO will be responsible for funding the NRP. DOD funds will be allocated on an individual project basis and will appear as appropriately classified line items in the Air Force budget. CIA will be responsible for funding covert projects for which it has management responsibility under paragraph 1. a. above.

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(2) With respect to contracts, all NRP project contracts will be the responsibility of DOD/AR as a necessary corollary to the assignment of technical management responsibility to DOD/AR. However, covert (black) contracts which provide cover for or enhance the security of specific projects may be the responsibility of the CIA when the DOD/AR and the Director of CIA, or his nominee, agree that such action offers a preferable route. This includes establishment of to provide cover for covert operations, and any other contractual action which is necessary for the NRP and which can be provided in a preferred manner by the Agency. DNRO will have responsibility for all NRP contracts in accordance with the assignment of technical management responsibility in paragraph 1. a. Consistent with that paragraph, CIA will be the Executive Agent of the DNRO, responsible for administering procurement and contracting for covert projects for which it is assigned responsibility under paragraph 1. a. and for covert contracting necessary for the support of overt projects.

2. Security

The DOD/AR will be responsible for the over-all security policy for the National Reconnaissance Program. Under this over-all policy, security of the NRP will be administered for DOD by DOD/AR, through control officers in the JCS/Army, Air Force, and Navy staffs,

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~~the DIA and the NSA, and for the CIA by its Director, or his nominee.~~
~~For the collection programs, final need to know validation authority~~
~~will be the responsibility of DOD/AR.~~ In accordance with the Director's
basic responsibility for protection of intelligence sources and methods,
CIA will establish security policy for the NRP, including provision for
a uniform system of security control and appropriate delegations of
security responsibility.

3. Operations:

a. Scheduling: The mission schedule for all NRP efforts
will be the sole responsibility of DNRO, ~~including the obtaining of -~~
~~appropriate clearances where required~~ subject to the concurrence of
CIA on covert projects for which it is Executive Agent and the obtaining
of appropriate clearances where required from higher authority. Opera-
tional control for individual projects under NRP will be assigned to DOD
or CIA as appropriate by the DCI and SECDEF.

5. Mission Operations

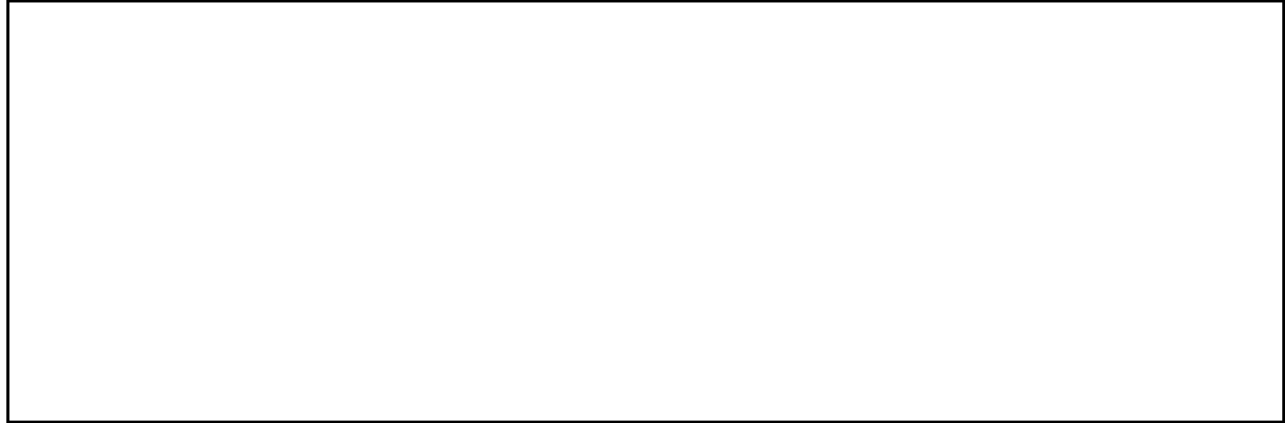
~~(i) A member of the DOD/AR office will be designated~~
~~as chairman of a Mission Operations Group (MOG) which will have~~
~~Tri-Service, NSA and CIA representation on a full-time basis. - The -~~

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(3) - The officer in charge of the operations control room at the STC or AOC will be sole responsible agent to DOD/AF to assure necessary actions with the mission vehicle as well as with the ground environment to maximize the probability of carrying out the mission in conformance with instructions of the MOG. - Any required functions relating to vehicle and payload operation during a mission, - such as piggy-backs, orbit or route changes, filters, - etc., - will be the sole responsibility of the officer in charge of the STC or AOC control room.



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~~all functions of the MOG will rest with the DOD/AR, who will provide the chairman of the MOG.~~

b. Requirements: The NRO will be directly responsive to, and only to, the photographic and electronic signal(SIGINT) collection requirements and priorities established by the United States Intelligence Board and will develop the over-all reconnaissance program to satisfy these requirements.

c. Formatting: The DNRO will be responsible for the formatting of the collected NRP product as follows:

(1) Photographic formatting will include the initial chemical processing, titling, production and delivery to the users as specified by the USIB.

(2) Electronic signal data formatting will include the decommutation, conversion, technical correction and reconstruction of the collected signal data to yield a useable collection product. DNRO will deliver the formatted collection product, together with associated data necessary for exploitation, to the NSA or other user as specified by the USIB.

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d. Engineering Analysis:

The DNRO will be responsible for engineering analysis of all collection systems to correct the problems that exist on the operating system as well as to provide information for new systems. In connection with covert projects for which CIA is Executive Agent, this responsibility will be carried out under the supervision of CIA.

4. The primary responsibility for advanced plans (post CY 1962) for all NRP projects is assigned to DNRO, subject to complete coordination with and the concurrence of CIA.

5. ~~In accordance with the requirements and broad project and over-all target priorities established by the Director of Central Intelligence the DOD/AR will determine schedules and targets for particular missions. Target decisions during conduct of missions will be made by the NRO by means of the MOC previously described, using USIB requirements, priorities and target lists.~~ Public releases of information will be the responsibility of the DNRO subject to the security guidance of CIA.

6. The Deputy Director (Research), CIA, will be responsible for seeing that the participation of CIA in this Agreement is carried out.

1-DCZ

2-DDR

3-GC

✓ 4-DDA Proj. Chron.

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